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CIA 402 Glomar Explorer
OR 91 NATIONAL Science
FOUNDATION

Glomar Explorer Studied for Use in Research

United Press International

The National Science Foundation is financing a study to determine if the salvage ship Hughes Glomar Explorer used by the CIA to raise part of a sunken Soviet submarine can carry out deep-sea research drilling.

The Glomar Explorer was built for the CIA with government money by one of the Howard Hughes enterprises at a cost estimated as high as $350 million. The ship recently was consigned to the U.S. reserve "mothball" fleet after unsuccessful attempts to lease it for commercial mining uses.

The National Science Foundation an independent government agency, said it authorized Global Marine Development Inc., of Newport Beach, Calif., to make a three-month, $75,000 study into the feasibility of converting the Explorer for use in the foundation's deep sea drilling project.

If the report is positive, the foundation will recommend to the Carter administration that the Explorer be modified for scientific purposes.

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